WaterISAC
★★★★★★★★★★
Drinking Water and Wastewater
Security Information Center

Be Informed. Be Prepared.
www.WaterISAC.org

Water Information Sharing
and Analysis Center
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FACT SHEET

Be Informed. Be Prepared.

The WaterISAC is a highly secure Internet portal that provides the best source for sensitive security information and alerts to help America's drinking water and wastewater community protect consumers and the environment.

It is the only centralized resource that gathers, analyzes and disseminates threat information that is specific to the drinking water and wastewater community. The WaterISAC gives utility managers fast, cost-effective access to sensitive information about physical, contamination and cyber threats.

ABOUT THE WaterISAC

The WaterISAC is an information service developed to provide America's drinking water and wastewater systems with a secure Web-based environment for early warning of potential threats and a source of knowledge about water system security.

Relying on information gathered from federal intelligence, law enforcement, public health and environment agencies and utility security incident reports, WaterISAC analysts produce and disseminate physical and cyber security information to the water sector.

The WaterISAC's wide array of information and tools can be used by water system managers and security personnel to assist in identifying and assessing threats, in taking measures to mitigate those threats and in analyzing incident reports. It also serves as an important link between the water sector and federal environmental, homeland security, law enforcement, intelligence and public health agencies.

In addition, the WaterISAC provides many resources to help utilities complete and continually improve their vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans, required by law for many systems.

Products and Services

- Alerts on potential terrorist activity.
- Information on water security from federal homeland security, intelligence, law enforcement, public health and environment agencies.
- Databases of chemical, biological and radiological agents.
- Physical vulnerabilities and security solutions.
- Notification of cyber vulnerabilities and technical fixes.
- Research, reports and other information.
- A secure means for reporting security incidents.
- Vulnerability assessment tools and resources.
- Emergency preparedness and response resources.
- Secure electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms on security topics.
- Summaries of open-source security information.

HOW THE WaterISAC WORKS

More than a security clearinghouse, the WaterISAC goes beyond gathering and distributing information to analyze the information and identify trends.


Two-Way Alerts and Reporting

Many different sources are used to gather information for the WaterISAC, including intelligence and law enforcement agencies, water utility incident reports, research foundations, federal public health and research agencies, publicly available information and private organizations, such as think tanks. WaterISAC analysts gather information from these sources, then assess, sanitize and disseminate it, enabling managers to make better-informed security decisions.

Within the WaterISAC's organization, analysts investigate and disseminate threat reports and other security information. Subject-matter experts are on call and brought in on an as-needed basis. In conducting analysis for the WaterISAC, analysts look for patterns and trends in seemingly unrelated events and seek associations that may link several events together.

Analysts for the WaterISAC have government security clearances and operate under strict protocols. The computer servers for the WaterISAC's secure portal reside in a government-approved facility and are protected by security barriers and monitored by IT security experts.

The extremely sensitive and valuable information produced for the WaterISAC is distributed to subscribers through encrypted e-mail and a secure portal, making the WaterISAC the one place where all sensitive security-related information is available to the drinking water and wastewater community.
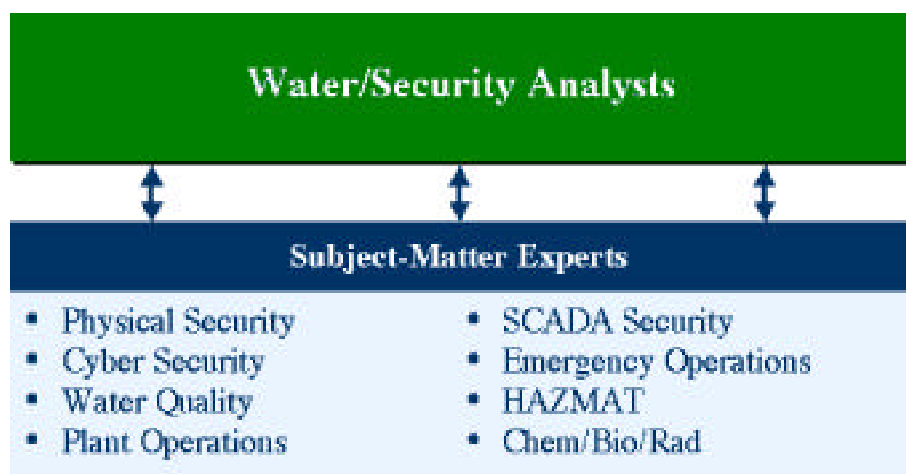
The WaterISAC also includes secure electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms, providing for the first time a forum for drinking water and wastewater system managers to share and discuss sensitive information and intelligence. These state-of-the-art forums will host discussions on current security topics, keeping the water sector informed with the latest knowledge.

Beyond these immediate objectives, the WaterISAC is also designed to offer a repository for security-related documents, a focal point for online training and education on security topics, a place where utility managers can share information, counsel and advice in a secure setting, a contact point for links and resources beyond the world of utilities and a security library tailored to the needs of the sector.

HOW TO USE THE WaterISAC

The WaterISAC address on the World Wide Web is www.WaterISAC.org. The web interface is designed to be user friendly, with a homepage that provides sensitive security information in an easy-to-find format. Other elements of the WaterISAC web site include:

- Contaminant information
- Cyber security information
- Physical threat information
- Secure bulletin boards and chat rooms
- Vulnerability assessment tools and training aids
- Government reports
- Case studies
- Research reports
- Incident reporting forms
- Key web site links
- Federal laws and regulations
- Online help

System Requirements

1. 133 MHz or higher CPU, and Windows 2000 operating system (or XP)
2. Min. 64 MB of RAM (128 MB of RAM preferred)
3. Min. 2 GB hard disk (4 GB preferred) with 650 MB of free space (before installing Windows 2000)
4. A USB or Serial or PCMCIA port
5. Internet Explorer version 6.x or higher (preferred), or Netscape version 7.x or higher
6. Floppy disk drive
7. Adobe Acrobat Reader 5

WHY THE WaterISAC WAS CREATED

The WaterISAC is not a government program. Rather, it is a water industry effort, recommended by Presidential Decision Directive 63 and Executive Order 13231. These presidential orders designate the water sector and other industry sectors as critical to the nation's well-being and recommend that these various sectors establish information sharing and analysis centers. The water sector must protect its critical facilities from terrorist or other threats because safe and clean water is fundamental to the nation's health and prosperity.

Potential Threats to Water Security

International Terrorists
Domestic Terrorists
Extreme Activists
Insiders
Lone Wolves
Vandals

HOW THE WaterISAC IS GOVERNED

The WaterISAC was developed for the drinking water and wastewater community under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, with the advice of utility representatives. The WaterISAC is governed by a Board of Managers, comprised of water utility managers appointed by the national drinking water and wastewater organizations below. There are also two at-large seats, filled by the Board of Managers.

American Water Works Association	Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies	Awwa Research Foundation
National Association of Water Companies	National Rural Water Association
Water Environment Federation	Water Environment Research Foundation

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE WaterISAC

The WaterISAC is open to all U.S. drinking water and wastewater systems. Subscription fees are based on the number of people served by the utility. The information on the WaterISAC is specifically geared to utility executives, managers, operators and security officers. Because of the sensitive nature of the information, subscribers must agree in advance to protect the WaterISAC's sensitive information from disclosure and establish protocols for handling the information within the utility.

Each utility will be allowed a certain number of users, depending on the number of people the utility serves. To access the secure portal of the WaterISAC, users will be provided a smart card and card reader and a special access code.

Refer to the WaterISAC Service Agreement for details on subscriptions fees and users.